

Message Text

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1. A NEW STYLE IN PRESIDENTIAL NEWS CONFERENCES WAS IN EVIDENCE AT PRESIDENT PEREZ' FIRST MEETING WITH THE PRESS LAST WEEK. THE POST OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION HAS BEEN CREATED WHICH SEEMS AT FIRST GLANCE TO BE THAT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE NEW GOVERNEMENT.

2. NEAREST EQUIVALENT IN THE PREVIOUS REGIME WAS THAT OF DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION (OCI) UNDER THE ADECO REORGANIZATION, OCI (WITH CHANNEL 5 AND RADIO NACIONAL)

BECOMES ONE OF THE MINISTER'S DEPENDENCIES. OCI USED TO BE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. UNDER THE NEW SETUP, THE INFORMATION MINISTER WILL ALSO EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION IN THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES, AUTONOMOUS ENTITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES. HE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO STRENGTHEN VENEZUELA'S OVERSEAS INFORMATION PROGRAM. A RECENT NEWSPAPER PROFILE QUOTES NEW MINISTER, LIC. SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI, AS SAYING THAT "AN OIL PRODUCING COUNTRY WHICH PLAYS SUCH A DECISIVE ROLE IN TODAY'S WORLD MUST NECESSARILY CONCERN ITSELF WITH ITS IMAGE ABROAD."

3. CONSALVI SERVED AS PESS SPOKESMAN FOR CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ DURING THE CAMPAIGN, JUST RESIGNED AS DIRECTOR OF EL UNCLASSIFIED

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NACIONAL'S SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT, 7 DIA, IS FORMER DIRECTOR OF

WEEKLY MAGAZINE BOHEMIA, WAS DIRECTOR OF OCI AND INCIBA (INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE CULTURA Y BELLAS ARTES) DURING LEONI ADMINISTRATION, AND SERVED AS VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA DURING BETANCOURT ADMINISTRATION. HE IS A FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT GRANTEE.

4. ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN PRESS RELATIONS WAS EVIDENT AT THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE MARCH 16. HE ANNOUNCED HE WILL NOT MEET WITH THE PRESS REGULARLY ONCE WEEKLY AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR, BUT FROM TIME TO TIME AS THE NEED ARISES. THE PRESIDENCY, EX-GRANTEE RAMON ESCOBAR SALOM, SEATED TO ONE SIDE OF HIM AND INFORMATION MINISTER CONSALVI ON THE OTHER. HE WASN'T DIRECTLY INTO QUESTIONS RATHER THAN OFFERING A SERIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS AS HIS PREDECESSOR USED TO DO, AND QUESTIONS WERE NOT SUBMITTED IN WRITING 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. THE CONFERENCE ENDED WITHOUT THE OCI DIRECTOR'S STANDARD ANNOUNCEMENT, "HA HABLADO EL PRESIDENT." CAP SIMPLY THANKED NEWSMEN FOR COMING.
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